



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TENNESSEE FFA MEMBERS SHINE AT WILSON COUNTY-TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

LEBANON, TN – The great American farm tradition, youth leadership training, and an impressive display of technical skills collide each year during the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair FFA Day. This year, more than 1,300 members of the Tennessee Future Farmers of America (FFA) gathered at the fair on August 19th for a day of learning, competition, and fun.

Students from every Tennessee county were invited to showcase their agricultural expertise and gain hands-on experience in various disciplines. FFA Day events included Livestock Evaluation, Meats Evaluation and Technology, Poultry Evaluation, Forestry, Environmental and Natural Resources, Floral Design, Public Speaking, and Veterinary Science. This year's event also introduced new contests such as Auctioneering, Welding, and Tractor Driving, allowing students to demonstrate their skills in these important trades. Additionally, members tested their culinary prowess in the Tennessee FFA Grill Masters Beef Barbecue Competition, organized in collaboration with the Tennessee Beef Industry Council.

The success of these activities was due to the cooperative efforts of the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair staff, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Department of Education, industry groups, local Extension Agents, and numerous dedicated volunteers.

FFA Day kicked off with the sold-out 9th Annual Tennessee State Fair FFA Ham Breakfast, highlighted by the auctioning of the Country Style Grand Champion Ham, which fetched \$25,000 in support of the FFA program. Country music star and FFA alum Trace Adkins headlined the event as the keynote speaker, and over 1,200 farmers, government officials, business leaders, students, and FFA supporters gathered to celebrate agriculture's promising future. The event raised \$221,100.

"FFA Day at the state fair showcased the remarkable talent and dedication of over 1,300 students who competed in a wide range of events, from public speaking to Poultry Evaluation," said Ryan Inman, Tennessee FFA State Director. "These events highlight the strength of our partnerships with industry and the fair, providing students with exceptional opportunities. We were especially thrilled to start the day with the Tennessee FFA Ham Breakfast, raising \$221,100 to support 33,504 FFA members across the state. Our members left the event better

prepared for future contests and with great memories shared with their chapters.”

FFA is an intracurricular student organization dedicated to those interested in agriculture and leadership. It is one of the three core components of agricultural education, along with Supervised Agricultural Experiences and classroom instruction. Tennessee FFA membership is at an all-time high with 33,504 members in 246 chapters across Tennessee, covering public and private schools, homeschools, and colleges. FFA membership is open to agricultural education students in grades 5-12 and college. For more information, visit tnffa.org.

Photo gallery available at: tnffa.org/gallery

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Photo Caption: FFA members created floral arrangements as part of the floral design competition. Members identified 50 different types of flowers and were given 20 minutes to create a floral arrangement. 26 chapters competed in the event. *Photo Credit: Paige Robinson*



Photo Caption: 81 FFA members from 29 chapters competed in the Tennessee FFA Grill Masters Beef Barbecue Competition, held in partnership with the Tennessee Beef Industry Council. Members learned to prepare a variety of beef cuts while practicing proper food safety techniques. *Photo Credit: Sophie Helton*



Photo caption: Country music star and FFA alum Trace Adkins headlined the Tennessee State Fair FFA Ham Breakfast, attended by over 1,200 elected officials, business leaders, and FFA supporters. *Photo Credit: Carmen Gregson*



Photo caption: 23 FFA members put their tractor driving skills to the test as they displayed safety techniques and navigated a predetermined course. *Photo Credit: Carmen Gregson*